



Prevent Cervical Cancer. Get Tested Now.

1-800-793-8090

Office of Women's Health
Los Angeles County
Department of Health Services

What Women Need To Know

What is Cervical Cancer?

- ✓ Cancer of the Cervix is a disease in which cancer cells are found in the tissue of the cervix.

What is a Cervix?

- ✓ The cervix is the lower, narrow part of the uterus (womb). The cervix forms an opening between the uterus and vagina. This is the structure that opens during labor to allow the baby to pass into the birth canal.

Who is at Risk?

- ✓ All women who have had sex are at risk for cancer of the cervix. The risk increases in women who start having sex before the age of 18, have had more than one partner, and in women whose partners have had more than one partner.
- ✓ African American women, Latinas, Korean women, older women, recent immigrants and women without health insurance have the highest rate of cancer of the cervix in Los Angeles County.
- ✓ Women who have had a prior Pap test with abnormal results.
- ✓ Women who smoke.
- ✓ Women who are currently being treated for a sexually transmitted disease (STD), with a history of chlamydia, gonorrhea or syphilis, or have been diagnosed with HIV/AIDS.

How can Cancer of the Cervix be prevented?

- ✓ Cervical disease is highly curable when detected early. Women who have ever had sexual intercourse should get a Pap test and a pelvic exam every year.

What is a Pap test?

- ✓ The Pap test, also called a Pap smear, is a way to remove cells from the cervix, or the neck of the uterus for testing. It is painless, quick and easy, and only takes a few minutes. It can detect changes in the cells before cancer develops. Most Pap test results are normal. If the results are not normal, your doctor or clinic should contact you and let you know about treatment.
- ✓ When cervical disease is detected before it becomes cancer, many techniques can be used which avoid major surgery.

What are the Warning Signs of Cervical Cancer?

- ▽ Cervical cancer is a silent disease which often causes no symptoms until it is quite advanced.
- ▽ Although these symptoms can be associated with other diseases, they may be a warning sign for cervical cancer:
 - ▽ Bleeding or spotting from your vagina between periods, after intercourse or after menopause.
 - ▽ Continual vaginal discharge, which may be pink, brown, watery, dark or blood-streaked in color, accompanied by foul smell.

How is Cervical Cancer Treated?

- ▽ Options for treatment depend on the stage of disease and the patient's age and general health.
- ▽ Hysterectomy surgically removes the cervix and uterus and can cure cervical cancer in its early stages.
- ▽ Late stage cancer must be treated more aggressively. If your doctor finds cancer, one or more of the following treatments will probably be suggested: Radiation therapy, chemotherapy, hysterectomy or a combination of all three procedures.

*By getting a yearly Pap test, you are taking a very important step for your health.
Tell your female friends and family members to get one too.*

**Prevent Cervical Cancer. Get Tested Now.
Call the Office of Women's Health Hotline at:
1-800-793-8090
to make an appointment close to home**



OFFICE OF WOMEN'S HEALTH

**For More Information:
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